

WHAT HAPPENED IN SAMOA.

JUSTICE CHAMBERS'S ACCOUNT OF
THE TROUBLE RECEIVED

Everybody. He Writes, Would Have Accepted His Decision as to the Succession of Malleton Tanu Had the Germans Kept Their Hands Off—Rebels Were Repulsed at First, but Gained an Advantage by Treachery—Letter Received Yesterday by the Justice's Brother in This City.

[illegible]

"When I wrote you four weeks ago I was in the midst of the trial of the contest between the two rival factions in Samoa for the Kingship. I apprehended that there might be trouble when the decision was delivered, no matter which way the case was decided. Notwithstanding that I was not a party to the case, I provided the method I was pursuing for the settlement of the question with the distinct purpose of preventing war, it has been the immemorial custom of the Samoans to settle the question of Kingship succession by war.

"Samoans know nothing of our form of election, and they will not adopt our methods unless they are forced to do it. They know nothing of majorities and minorities. As long as a part of the people oppose, those who favor must either persuade or force the others into acquiescence. Thus you will see the conditions with which I was confronted

"After a trial of eleven days of patient investigation, the results of the study of the Samoan genealogies, customs, titles and practices every night, I came to the conclusion that the Samoan people are descended from a legal and conscientious point of view, be sides upon the treaty and the laws and cus toms of the United States, from the king, Tanu, the son of the late King Malletto, and who by the wife of the people had been in ventioned as the father of the people."

Everything was peaceful and quiet at the time the decision was rendered, although during the night I was awakened by the sound of threats had been made against my life by people who were not known to me. I was informed by a number of respectable people that they had heard one of the highest chiefs in the country, a man named Mungu, say that my body went to the court that morning. Dec. 31, 1906, I prepared for court conditionally, although I was not at all confident. I stood in the upper drawer of the desk behind which I was sitting, and I was not at all sure that I was determined to do my part of the work if any trouble occurred.

At the trial there was a very large attendance, and the British and American Consuls were present. I was surrounded by people who were in the court at the time, as well as other prominent people, have told me that but for the fact that I was not a native, the same would have occurred. The room was crammed with natives and there were hundreds of people standing outside. I was surrounded by three policemen, two of them natives, and I was told that I was the only person on whom I believe would sacrifice their lives in my command. I frankly selected the two highest chiefs in the country to stand on either side, calling them out by their names and commanding them to follow me. I then ordered the policemen to clear the premises of all but a few persons, and I then ordered the court to be assembled. I required and received a pledge from them that in the future course of my life I would not be troubled in the neighborhood of the court. It became necessary to severely punish one of these very chiefs for his contempt.

At the time the decision was made the natives

exercised a discretion which was the better part of valor. Things were exceedingly quiet and respectful on the surface, and the crowd dispersed peacefully. United States Consul-General Judge Osborn of Nebraska, a man of fine character and legal ability, and the British

bury's was, a man of fifteen years' experience in diplomatic service in England's foreign service, and one of the cleverest men I have ever met, both immediately accepted the decision for their respective Governments and have since given me a statement in writing that in their opinion, having attended the trial throughout its long course, they could not have come to a different conclusion themselves, and they are both so re-

Consul-General, who had also attended the trial, refused to accept the decision for his Government, although (see section 6, Article III, above referred to or rather quoted) his Government had already agreed with America and England that it would accept and abide by the decision, whatever it might be.

The English and German men-of-war were both within an hour. The American and English Consuls and the Captains of the English men-of-war proposed that the King, in whose favor the King had decided, be immediately recognized by the Consuls calling upon him and the warships, giving him a royal salute. This the German Consul and the Captain of the German warship refused to do. If it had been done, there is no doubt whatever that he would have been firmly upon his throne that very day.

— Within two hours, the German counsel for

Mataafa faction into the streets of the municipality. The President, who is a German, threw all his influence on that side, and the Mataafa people, realizing that they had the support of the German Consul, of a German warship and of the entire German population, got ready with amazing quickness for the violent attack which followed. The successful side had all along

ever it should be, and had promised all the officials that they would not fight. In these promises we have every reason to believe they were sincere, because ever since the treaty was adopted in 1889 the Malletto people have constituted the loyal and peaceful portion of Samoa. Mataafa, you know, is the old rebel chief who made war upon the Malletto Government in 1893, and since then, with a number of his chiefs, has been in exile in the

The Malietoa people, however, when it became known that the Matanufas were going to

in Aphi and the surrounding villages. They had no time to gather their supporters from the different parts of the islands. They succeeded in mustering about 2,000 men, inefficiently armed and miserably ammunitioned. The rebels, who had been preparing for the situation for several weeks, perhaps mustered about 3,500 men, and as afterward shown, they had much better guns and were well supplied with ammunition. In fact there seems to be a

lean sympathizing with the Matabele side had provided many new guns and great quantities of fresh ammunition for them. Things became so very exciting that the Captain of the British warship sent a guard of twenty-four men under Lieut. Gaunt to our residence.

barricaded the verandas with sand bags and